

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018; 6:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ashley Brady	Councilman Michael Baker
Mayor Pro-Tem Emerson Hunt	Councilman Joseph Frazier
Councilman Ralph Atkinson	Councilwoman Tassie Lewis
Councilman Ronald Atkinson	

STAFF PRESENT:

Alan Ammons, City Administrator	Chief Tony Flowers
Gwendolyn Davis, City Clerk	Cliff Wilbanks, Recreation Director
James Brogdon, City Attorney	

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Ashley Brady called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed all guests.

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ashley Brady led the prayer and Mr. Alan Ammons led the pledge of allegiance.

3. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS

Mayor Brady welcomed citizens, guests, and the press (Hometown TV 8). He also acknowledged Reverend Hemingway and his board.

4. APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING December 11, 2018 and December 17, 2018

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 11, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker and seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting on December 17, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

5. DECEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Mr. Richard Moody of the Marion Recreation Department was named December Employee of the Month. He is a faithful employee and good citizen in the City of Marion. Mayor Ashley Brady added that he was with the sanitation department before moving to the Recreation department and has been there ever since. He thanked him for everything he does.

6. Award Presentation – Reverend Hemingway

Mayor Brady presented Reverend Hemingway and his staff to the audience.

Reverend Hemingway introduced his board to Marion City Council and Mayor Brady. He stated that at the 19th Annual Women to Women Conference they honored outstanding agencies, businesses and organizations throughout Marion County. This year they decided to honor collective bodies of people who are doing not only an outstanding job in the City of Marion, but Marion County and surrounding areas. He thanked City Council for all they do in the City of Marion regardless of race, creed, color or background.

7. Datamax – Bobby Monroe

Mayor Brady introduced Mr. Monroe to the council stating that the company basically comes in and determines whether businesses in Marion, SC have a business license or not. They help identify the ones who do not and ensure they obtain a business license with the City of Marion.

Mr. Bobby Monroe thanked the council members for allowing him to present, adding that Datamax has been in business for over 129 years. Datamax is out of Winston-Salem, NC and they have been doing third party collections and finding new revenue for cities and towns all across North and South Carolina. For Marion, they can identify new businesses coming into Marion without a business license. They will receive a list from the Treasurer of all businesses conducting business in Marion, SC and compare to their list at Datamax. They will compile a list every month for Marion of about 20-30 new businesses they find. They will then give the list of businesses to the Treasurer to check yes or no if they currently do business in the city. There are many businesses in the city conducting business without the City knowing and leaving. The statute allows the City to go back to the current year plus three previous years. If the council approves and reaches an agreement by the end of the month, they will pick up a year. However, if they wait until January 2019, they will lose a year. He predicted that our municipality could see an increase of about \$50,000 to \$500,000 a year.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt asked what the company generally produces for municipalities the size of the City of Marion. Mr. Monroe predicted that our municipality could see an increase of about \$50,000 to \$500,000 a year. He added that the city has a Walmart, five schools and doctor practices. They know who the doctors are and who their vendors are depending on the physician. Mayor Pro Tem Hunt added that the vendors are inside of a bigger facility such as Walmart and are not paying the proper taxes to the municipality. He reiterated that Datamax will

recover the taxes for us and split 50/50 with the city. Mr. Monroe added Datamax and the city will share the revenue going three years back and two years going forward, but after two years the city will collect 100% of the revenue. Mayor Brady added that it sounds like a good revenue source for the City of Marion and suggested that the city does not miss out on the opportunity now and have to wait another year.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to approve the Mayor and City Administrator to move into an agreement with Datamax after the Attorney reviews the agreement and to proceed with this calendar year. Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Resolution to Authorize City Administrator and City Treasurer to Sign Necessary Documents Pertaining to Loan with Anderson Brothers Bank for Purchase of New Fire Truck

Mayor Brady stated that the City was able to get a \$50,000 grant for the purchase of a new fire truck and that it is a good asset to the City of Marion. Anderson Brothers Banks was the low bidder to make up the difference for the remainder of the funds. The City only needed to finish the documents.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to approve the Resolution to Authorize City Administrator and City Treasurer to Sign Necessary Documents Pertaining to Loan with Anderson Brothers Bank for Purchase of New Fire Truck, seconded by Ronald Atkinson. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Set Date for Special Meeting

Mayor Ashley Brady stated that after Hurricane Florence there was a lot of yard debris that was stocked high in the landfill. Working with FEMA they discovered that the debris totaled to about 12,000 cubic yards of debris. The city submitted the bid the previous week but put 1,200 cubic yards instead of 12,000 cubic yards. It was withdrawn and resubmitted with the correct numbers and the deadline was Monday December 17, 2018 at 10 am. The special meeting is needed to provide the necessary information to FEMA for reimbursement.

Councilman Baker suggested to meet Monday, December 17 at 5:15 pm.

10. Bids on Electrical Repairs at AC Tollison Gym

Mr. Alan Ammons stated that during the hurricane there were electrical problems and it did some damage to the lighting system. He stated that it will be reported to the insurance company and the bulk of it will be covered. He recommended that the council members approve the low bid from Soles Industrial Electric for \$14,750. Mayor Brady added that it is needed because basketball season will start in January and there is not proper lighting in the gym for the students to play basketball.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to approve the low bid on the bids of Electrical Repairs at AC Tollison Gym from Soles Industrial Electric for \$14,750, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier. The motion carried unanimously.

11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. CTC Projects

Mr. Ammons stated that the Marshall Street Project is complete and he went to check it after some heavy rain and there was no standing water in the backyards. Everything is working perfect and he was really impressed with it.

The Cherokee Holland Park Project is about 90% complete. He checked that also and it is flowing well. It will be a couple more weeks before completion.

B. Holiday Schedule

Mr. Ammons stated that for Christmas the trash pickup would be one day behind with no pickup on Christmas day. Councilman Ralph Atkinson suggested that it be put in the paper. Mr. Ammons said the Publicist would put it on Facebook and on signs. Grand Strand Water and Sewer will be closed on December 24 and 25, 2018. They will reopen on December 26, 2018 but the emergency number will remain operational.

Councilman Frazier asked about the light situation. Mr. Ammons stated that he talked to Mr. McClain and he was supposed to come that day with a report about 90% complete. However, he did not come. He was expecting to talk to him some time soon.

13. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady reminded everyone about the City Employee Luncheon at the Shannon Wilkerson Gym at 12 pm. He stated that the Christmas Tree Lighting Event had a good crowd and there was a huge crowd at the Fireworks Show. He thanked the City employees for doing a fantastic job at getting the town ready, lights up and doing everything for the City with a smile on their face. He announced the Crime Watch Meeting on December 19, 2018 and invited council to attend and participate. He also acknowledged that the Christmas Parade had to be rescheduled due to rain with the new date being December 12, 2018 at 4:30pm. He encouraged council to stop by to view the new fire truck. He mentioned the Santa Clause mailbox outside of City Hall and encouraged the children to write letters to Santa with a return address. Mayor Brady stated that if a light is out in the area to get the pole number and call Ms. Ainsley Sanders, the Administrative

Assistant, to report it. He mentioned the grapple truck and that it is working great and individuals are able to work on other projects. On Wednesday's and Thursday's the city will be picking up brown goods and white goods (appliances and household furniture). The yard debris will still be picked up throughout the week. Councilman Ralph Atkinson suggested that it needs to be put in the newspaper and on the TV. Mayor Brady stated that a flyer has been made. If a white flag is placed in the yard, the debris needs to be moved to the designated area. TV's and tires are not supposed to be put on the streets. If they are put on the street, there will be a door hanger placed on the door to remind them to take it to the county recycling center or it could be subject to a \$1092.50 fine. Councilman Frazier asked if it could be sent to the churches as well. He acknowledged that council had tickets to the *Women to Women Conference*. Mr. Ammons added that it is the program presented by Reverend Hemingway's Youth Day Program. He also mentioned the Christmas Food Boxes and the date was set for December 19 and 20, 2018 to distribute them.

Councilman Michael Baker did not have any comments.

Councilman Joseph Frazier wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson

Councilman Ralph Atkinson thanked the City Employees for all they do, adding that downtown looked really pretty.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis stated that the Christmas program was really nice and she enjoyed the singing and the fellowship. She thanked everyone that supported the *Rise Above It All* Coat Giveaway. She mentioned that there were still coats that needed to be disbursed and she is working in conjunction with the Coordinator of the school district.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt wished everyone a Merry and safe Christmas and Happy New Year.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the Personnel Matter – Municipal Court, Personnel Matter – Police Department and Contractual Matter – City Recycling Program, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson. The motion carried unanimously.

13. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Returning from executive session Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Brady stated that there was no action taken during executive session.

14. ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Ashley Brady

City Clerk Gwendolyn T. Davis
Taped: December 11, 2018.